JI PHOTO BY CARMINE FILLORAMO JR.

Vernon

One House Willed To The Library By Mariette Fitch

Fitch Bequest Allows Expansion Of Library

By LESLEY POST
JI Staff Writer

VERNON — The late Miss Mariette N. Fitch has willed two houses to the Rockville Public Library, and they may figure in future library expansion, according to trustees' chairman John S. Mason.

Miss Fitch, a music teacher, lived at 48 Union St., next door to the library, for all of her life except for a brief stay in a convalescent home. She died March 19 at the age of 100.

Mason said the centenarian's will was probated Thursday and included the provision that her real property — two houses on about 1½ acres — be deeded to the library.

The property's assessed value is $15,440 for the larger two-story house, $10,280 for the smaller two-story house, $5,000 for the land and $450 for a garage, or a total of $31,200.

That represents two-thirds of the 1970 fair market value.

Since Miss Fitch's property abuts the library, Mason said, and since the library has no place to go for expansion and still have a parking lot, the gift will be "valuable for future expansion."

However, he said, it is up to the library trustees to decide the property's fate at their May 20 session.

In the meantime, Mason said, the houses probably will be rented to tenants and "just be an asset of the library."

For the moment, he said, the 1904 library building donated to the trustees by the George Maxwell family is in "good shape" for space.

Library expansion, if contemplated, would be several years off. "We're pretty adequately set up now. We don't have the money anyway," Mason said.

Other than the Fitch property, Mason said, the library is "boxed in."

Miss Fitch was a lifelong neighbor and user of the library and realized it had no other way to expand, the chairman said.

"That is really why Miss Fitch gave us the property in the first place," he explained.

Mason said he would get an opinion from the board of trustees, but "what I have said seems to be the only logical way to go."

Should the library be expanded, Mason said, the building would be extended into the present parking lot and the Fitch building most likely would be cleared for parking.

Mason said he was pleased but not surprised by the gift and said it first had been mentioned to him several years ago.

"She felt that, having no immediate relatives, it was the nicest thing to do," he said.

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